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JENNINGS: Good evening. The United States is now going to mount a full scale effort to discover what's causing all those explosions in the Red Sea. More than a dozen ships have been damaged, and American intelligence is still not exactly sure what's going on. Here's our Pentagon correspondent John McWethy.

MCWETHY: The four RH-53 mine-sweeping helicopters were loaded into C-5 transports in Norfolk, Va. over the weekend. Last night the planes flew to an American naval base in Rota, Spain. Once there, the helicopters were unloaded and put aboard an amphibious ship, the U.S.S. Shreveport. It is expected to arrive in the Red Sea in seven to 10 days. The U.S. mine-sweeping operation will be run from this ship, with the helicopter flight crews and maintenance people, all 200 of them, will be living for the indefinite future. At the Pentagon, there is plenty of uncertainty about the hazards of the operation. MICHAEL BURCH (Pentagon spokesman): While there is no stated threat, we don't know precisely what forces we may be dealing with.

MCWETHY: Along with the U.S., France and Great Britain are expected to help with the mine-sweeping effort. Pentagon sources warn the mines are probably difficult to find and destroy. Experts speculate the mines could be equipped with delayed arming devices, clocks that can turn the weapons on and off, meaning mine sweepers could pass over the dormant mines repeatedly without setting them off. Every day, new theories emerge from the U.S. government about who laid the mines. Today, Iran's official radio credited a terrorist group called the Islamic Jihad, or Islamic Holy War, the same group that said it bombed U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut last fall. UNIDENTIFIED RADIO ANNOUNCER: Those behind it knew very well what they were doing.

MCWETHY: Tehran radio went on to praise the terrorist group for making, quote, 'all the arrogant powers helpless by mining the Red Sea.' The government of Iran denies any direct involvement in the mining. Late today, there was still more from Iran. This time, they were blaming the U.S. for mining the Red Sea. Despite such claims and denials, U.S. intelligence sources say they are still looking at all the possibilities, at Libya, Iran, and the terrorist groups of both those nations are known to support. They are all still suspects. John McWethy, ABC News, the Pentagon.